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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1914.

Safety first. Better put 'em on.

Von Kluck is a determined old bird.

And we called that affair in Mexico a war.

And raising cotton is at times almost as bad as war.

What do you suppose the umpires do in winter? Not that we care.

The paragraphers are still hatching quips about Gen. von Kluck's name.

One way to keep well is not to read the patent medicine advertisements.

Some of the Southern Congressmen are almost cotton-mouthed these days.

Paris, Berlin, and Petrograd are the fiction centers of the world these days.

The more exciting the war news is, the more certain it is to be contradicted next day.

A dealer wants to know how to make a \$3 shoe fashionable. Oh, mark it up to \$5 or \$6.

It is reported that a literary magazine is to be established in Arkansas, but we don't believe it.

What a pity it is that Richard Harding Davis wasn't permitted to go right up to the firing line!

When a woman pays \$1 a pair for hose she generally wants to let you see what she got for her money.

The Democrats have nominated a State ticket in Vermont, but we have forgotten the name of the goats.

A good many Virginians, we understand, fear that prohibition will be what Gen. Sherman said about war.

Judging by his conduct, Representative Donovan must forget at times whether he is a Democrat or a Republican.

Many a woman has recovered from a severe illness just because she didn't want some other woman to attend her funeral.

King Victor Emmanuel, of Italy, is short of stature, but he is rapidly developing into the greatest giant in Europe. He is keeping his country out of war.

"Season busiest in years for Interstate Commerce Commission," says a news item. When the Interstate Commerce Commission gets busy everything else seems to stop.

Mr. Hearst wants Messrs. Taft, Roosevelt, and Bryan appointed on a peace commission. Is Mr. Hearst prepared to give bond that such a commission would keep the peace?

The Houston Post says the Texas legislature compares very favorably with the legislatures of other States—and hastens to add that it knows this isn't much of a compliment.

President Wilson announces that reports received from various sources indicate that the business of the country is rapidly returning to normal, and that our import and export trade is showing improvement. Is it possible that after the war-tax bill is enacted it will be found unnecessary to put it into operation?

Probably Secretary McAdoo will refrain from further correspondence with Representative Henry on the subject of financing the cotton crop, since the Texan refuses to be convinced of the futility of his efforts and is apparently using the Treasury Department to help make him a hero in the eyes of the South.

The District budget this year will again include an item for the paving of Seventh street, between New York and Florida avenues. This is an absolutely necessary improvement, and why Congress refused to make the small appropriation required when the need of it was clearly pointed out last winter is one of the many mysteries connected with District legislation. If the District Committee could be compelled to take a ride in a wagon without springs over this central thoroughfare of the National Capital perhaps the money would be forthcoming.

It is an exaggeration to say that the Borland amendment to the District bill, requiring property owners to pay half the cost of paving the streets amounts to confiscation of many homes. It is perfectly clear, however, that Representative Borland perpetrated an injustice on thousands of owners of small homes in the suburbs and imposed a severe hardship upon them. The great majority of the property owners affected are those who have invested in modest homes in the outskirts of the city, where land prices are reasonable, and where the streets have not yet been paved. These home owners are now to be assessed for half the cost of paving, while the owners of more valuable homes in the central sections, where the streets were laid long ago at government expense, escape unscathed. It is to be hoped the District Commissioners will urge the repeal of the Borland amendment at the next session, and that a sufficient number of members of Congress to bring this about will be made aware of the injustice and hardship inflicted by the measure as it stands.

## Col. Roosevelt and Peace Treaties.

Col. Roosevelt and the Hon. James Bryce are both students of history, especially political history, and a few years ago when one was President of the United States and the other Ambassador for Great Britain in Washington, they were supposed to think much alike on the teachings of history. That must have been an error of judgment on the part of the public, or they must have changed somewhat in their views, one or the other, or both. Both of these men have been contributing to the discussion of the war, as to its causes and effects, and the New York Times recently presented their views in the same issue.

Mr. Bryce discusses the doctrine of force put forward by the German military author, Bernhardi, combats that theory and closes his discussion with the sentence: "The faith of treaties is the only solid foundation on which the temple of peace can be built."

Col. Roosevelt does not mention the German author, but argues that treaties without the force to compel their respect are of no avail and he closes a long article with the sentence: "Neither the existing Hague Court, nor any peace treaties of the existing type, will exert even the slightest influence in saving from disaster any nation that does not preserve the virtue virtues and the long-sightedness that will enable it by its own might to guard its own honor, interest, and national life."

The Colonel is not as direct and simple in his conclusion as is Mr. Bryce, or the German author, Bernhardi, who declares "courts of arbitration are pernicious delusions," and "efforts directed toward the abolition of war are not only foolish, but absolutely immoral." Mr. Bryce believes that the great powers of Europe were solemnly bound by their treaties to protect the neutrality of Belgium. Col. Roosevelt sympathizes with Belgium, but contends that each nation is bound to protect its own interests by preservation of the virtue virtues and long-sightedness. He does not note the fact that the Belgians have given a rare exhibition of the virtue virtues of self-defense, nor that they had been long-sighted in preparing defenses far beyond the ordinary ability of a small kingdom, but not enough to withstand the attacks of the greatest military power in the world.

Col. Roosevelt is too indefinite in his conclusions. He should openly agree with Bernhardi, that efforts to avoid war are foolish and immoral, or with Mr. Bryce, that the strong nation which promises to protect a weak nation is bound by that promise. He need not violate the principle of neutrality in making clear his views on this question. If a great nation like the United States is bound to protect its own honor and compel other great nations to keep their treaties with it, will not the Colonel also say whether this government is also bound by the Monroe doctrine to see that other great powers observe their treaties with the smaller and weaker nations on this hemisphere? He has been an ardent advocate of the Monroe doctrine, and it might be considered ominous in Mexico and South America that Col. Roosevelt is now insisting that every nation, like every individual, must practice the virtue virtues and be able to protect itself against the greater powers of the world.

One desiring to find fault with Col. Roosevelt's position might accuse him of a political agitation against the arbitration treaties negotiated by Secretary Bryan, and also those which were negotiated by Secretary Knox, in the Taft administration. But the Colonel also tried his hand at arbitration treaties when he was President, and he wrote a rather sarcastic letter to the late Senator Cullom, then chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, because the Senate refused to ratify his arbitration treaties without amendment. President Roosevelt wanted a treaty that would give him the power to enter into agreements which the Senate thought would authorize him to make new arbitration treaties without the consent of the Senate, and because the Senate changed "agreements" to "treaties," President Roosevelt withdrew the treaties he had sent to the Senate. The objection which Col. Roosevelt has to arbitration treaties would seem to be that the Senate should, in conformity with the Constitution, have a hand in making them. His controversy with the Senate in 1905 might indicate that he favors such secret treaty-making power as the Kaiser of Germany and the Czar of Russia now have. So it may be that the Colonel has not changed and that he would still favor peace treaties if he were President and alone responsible for making them, without ratification by the Senate.

## Hope for Plaza Condemnation Victims.

A majority of the members of the House of Representatives should be familiar by this time with the circumstances connected with the Plaza condemnation proceedings. They know, or should know, that there are in Washington scores of persons whose homes or other property, situated between the Capitol and the Union Station, has been taken from them by the government for improvement purposes; that the money to pay for their property was appropriated a year and a half ago, and that it has never been paid to them because the chairman of the District Committee objected to the amount of one of the awards made to a railroad company. The property involved constitutes the entire earthly possessions of many persons, who, deprived of all revenue therefrom, are, in some cases, suffering for want of the actual necessities of life. More than six months ago they made a personal appeal to the President of the United States for relief, but it has not yet been granted to them. They were not asking for charity, but only that the government meet its just obligations.

Today the opportunity will present itself in the House for the enactment of legislation to authorize the payment to these long-suffering creditors of the government of the money due them. Unless this is done today, it will mean months more of waiting. It is earnestly to be hoped that no member of the House will place an obstacle in the way of legislation today. The whole matter can be disposed of in two hours, or just a little longer time than was consumed by Chairman Johnson in trying to get his salary without the formality of certifying to his presence in the House. And this is a matter of vital, almost tragic importance, not to one, but to many persons.

Mr. Johnson himself is said to be willing at last that the awards shall be adjusted. Surely there is no other member who will interpose objection to granting a long-deferred justice to the Plaza property owners.

## A Democrat Out of Tune.

Even the editor of the Atlanta Constitution, who is a member of the Democratic National Committee, and whose paper for years has fought Democratic battles whether wrong or right, does not appear to place a high value on the services of the present Congress.

"After a session of nearly a year," says Editor Clark Howell, "during which there has been little of positive accomplishment in the direction of industrial betterment, Congress is about to adjourn without

even touching the question of relief for the one crop that maintains our national balance of trade."

With the fall election less than a month away a quotation from so high a Democratic authority is worth notice at this time. The party's campaign book has been issued and some three hundred pages have been printed dealing with the party's "accomplishment." It sets forth that the party "has kept promises by reducing the cost of the necessities of life and yet stimulated American industry and commerce." The party's orators already are on the stump praising Democratic "achievement," and asking for an endorsement at the polls.

Editor Howell, however, evidently takes little stock in the boasts of his party. He sees but "little of positive accomplishment," and is frank to admit it. The Democratic National Committee has at least one member who will not shut his eyes to the facts in the case nor make prosperity out of a continued stream of Congressional talk. Mr. Howell does not subscribe to the old bunko game.

## European Methods in Export Trade.

The first consideration is that the American producer, seeking a foreign market, must look upon such a proposition as necessarily involving the opening of a definite and permanent branch of his business, and as soon as he can ascertain what character of goods such foreign market requires, he must equip himself permanently to meet the demands of such market. No permanent foreign trade can ever be built upon the idea of merely utilizing such a market as an outlet for surplus products.

No better method can be adopted to secure and develop South American trade than has been successfully employed by such countries as Germany, Great Britain, and France. For example, Germany's method has been to send a specially fitted representative to South America, make purchases of products in actual use and demand, ascertain selling costs, and then to manufacture these products in the style, size, and character demanded, and at a price which will enable successful competition with existing trade.

The second consideration in the development of a permanent foreign trade for this country rests upon the willingness of the government to assist. Every intelligent American, having any connection with shipping matters, knows that our maritime and navigation laws have lost to us annually, for the past sixty years, not only a very large foreign trade, but also hundreds of millions of dollars in transportation charges. These laws should certainly be either repealed in whole or modified beyond recognition and new laws should be adopted, based on the experience of other nations, whose object shall be the upbuilding and not the throttling of an American merchant marine.

The very crisis through which our trade is now passing shows that we should have a homestead merchant marine. This is necessary not only for the extension of foreign trade, but for the protection of the trade which we now have. At the present moment, America has approximately 14 per cent of the export trade of the world. Less than 100 years ago American ships carried fully 50 per cent of our then foreign shipments. That small percentage of the export trade is carried under the American flag, the entire export tonnage of the world, 58 per cent is carried under the flag of Great Britain, 14 per cent Germany, 8 per cent United States, and 5 per cent France.

The reason for America's lost foreign shipping and the failure to develop on any scale the ship-building industry, with all its ramifications and possibilities for the investment of capital, employment of labor, purchase of supplies, etc., is due to the severe hardships placed upon vessels sailing under the American flag, and the failure of the government to enact such laws as will enable the construction of American ships, the upbuilding of a greater ship-building industry, and the operation of American ships on an economical basis.

It is claimed that it costs from 25 per cent to 40 per cent more to build and equip a ship in America than in any other country, and from 25 per cent to 30 per cent more to operate an American ship than the ship of almost any other nation. A vessel of 10,000 tons under the British flag can, therefore, be maintained as cheaply as a vessel of from 6,500 to 7,000 tons under the American flag. If some of these handicaps could be eliminated or overcome by government aid, the vast increase of trade and commerce to result would certainly bring great prosperity to American labor as well as capital.

I, personally, do not believe in government-owned merchant ships. I should much prefer to see the government make loans on American-built bottoms of certain tonnage, up to a certain per cent of the actual cost of construction, at a rate of interest sufficiently low, say 2 per cent, as would attract and inspire capital sufficient to develop a real homestead merchant marine. I am assuming that, after a short period, this industry, once established, would be able to stand without government aid. As a temporary measure solely and to meet the present emergency, the same principle of government loan might be applied to foreign-built ships taking out American registry.

A third consideration in the establishment of permanent foreign trade is the developing of necessary banking facilities for handling credits between foreign countries and the United States. At the present time, America buys probably 50 per cent of her coffee, rubber, hides, and wool produced in South America. Practically all of this business is settled by exchange on London or some European city. Here is a credit balance in favor of South America, which, as soon as a sufficient trade is developed with South America by the sale of American goods, can be utilized against the debit thus created and settlements made through American banking institutions already opening branches in the principal South American cities.

Banking facilities and trade always follow the flag, and there is little doubt but that the American banker will produce all the banking facilities necessary to handle the South American trade, as soon as the American producer seriously enters the field and the American government gives evidence of an intention to foster the development of such a trade.

A good example of the readiness of trade to expand upon the slightest encouragement is found in the apparent results of the reciprocity agreements made between Brazil and the United States in April, 1901. The exports of cotton piece goods, bleached and unbleached, wearing apparel, and other cotton manufactures, which in 1899 were \$654,584, in 1901 were \$873,700, increased in the three following succeeding years, during which such reciprocal agreements were in force, to \$1,476,690, 1902; \$1,402,590, 1903; \$1,538,689, 1904.

A further consideration in the development of foreign markets is found in the assistance which bankers can, and usually do give in financing loans to foreign governments which furnish a trade outlet. When the Balkan war broke out, the more important countries in South America were seeking loans from European banks. Naturally, with the development of that war, these loans were loaned to these governments with the stipulation that a large part of it be used in buying the products of their mills. American bankers entering this field can obtain similar concessions. If such loans could be made, a large part of the funds would come back to the United States in payment for our goods.—William C. Breed, in the Scientific American.

## Autos and Aeroplanes.

Representative D. R. Anthony, of Kansas, impressed by the mobility of troops in the campaign in France when using armored automobiles, says that he will introduce a bill in Congress providing for the equipment of the United States army with that means of transportation. A commendable idea, but would it not be better first to make sure of an improved and adequate aeroplane service? Friends of the army are prone to distrust sudden enthusiasms in Congress to increase its efficiency.—New York Sun.

## HISTORY BUILDERS.

The Original of the Elder Sothern's  
Fits Altemont.

(Written for the Herald.)  
By DR. E. E. EDWARDS.

An incidental reference to the fact that among the eccentric characters who always found a friend in Charles A. Dana, who frequently when in secondary distress visited him, was George the Count Johannes, brought to the recollection of the late A. M. Palmer, who in his day was the leading theatrical manager of the United States, an incident associated with E. H. Sothern, father of the actor of that name who has been prominent in dramatic life for twenty years.

"Did you ever see the Count 'Hammett'?" Mr. Palmer asked me. "I replied that I had only seen him several times when making his somewhat periodic visit to Mr. Dana, but that I had also seen him in the excruciatingly painful and eccentric performance of 'Hamlet,' in which he appeared as the melancholy Danish prince."

"You will remember then, what a curious personality the Count Johannes had," said Mr. Palmer. "He wore an ink-black wig with the near locks almost touching his shoulders. He was closely shaven, excepting a mustache, whose long ends drooped so that they could almost have been fastened to his ears. He was of very tall complexion, and this was intensified by his dark eyes and his presumably deep eyebrows. He always had a look of intense gloom, which he had worn so many years that the seams were of different tints from the body of the garment. His trousers were also black, with the near pockets almost touching his shoulders. He was closely shaven, excepting a mustache, whose long ends drooped so that they could almost have been fastened to his ears. He was of very tall complexion, and this was intensified by his dark eyes and his presumably deep eyebrows. 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